

DeltaCultura

Cabo Verde \*

Education Center Tarrafal  
Data, Pictures & Stories

ANNUAL REPORT 2024





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## ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Delta Cultura annual report is now in its eleventh edition this year. The Education Center, which is the focus of this report, has been in existence since 2004/2005, but in the first few years the report was presented in a different format. The current annual report summarizes the activities of the Education Center for the year 2024 - in

figures, pictures, anecdotes and short contributions from project managers and partners. The focus is less on dry data and more on providing a lively insight into everyday life at the Center and the lives of the participants.

We hope you enjoy reading it!

### **Paradise**

(told by Cutchinha / educator)

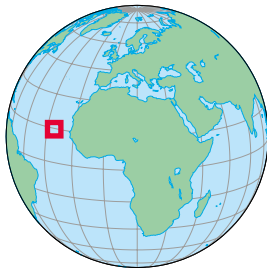
Netxy is 18 years old and has been with Delta Cultura for many years. She finished school in July 2024, but she still comes to the Education Center regularly. I recently asked her what she is going to do now that school is over.

“Travelling, to Portugal,” was her answer.

“Ever since I was little, my aunt, who lives in Portugal, has been telling me she’ll come and get me as soon as I finish school. I’ve only been studying all these years so that I can get away from here. The way my aunt talks about Europe, it must be paradise...”









# VISION

## **DELTA CULTURA ELIMINATES POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION.**

We keep children and young people enthusiastic about learning. By creating emotions that awaken curiosity, we make a significant contribution to self-determined, alert action and contribute to social change.

# MISSION

## **DELTA CULTURA'S CORE COMPETENCY IS EDUCATION.**

We develop educational activities aimed at creating emotions for the teaching content. This allows us to recognize potential and promote it. To generate emotions, we use tools such as telling stories, asking questions, questioning values and creating challenges.

We form an international knowledge network, to ensure the active involvement of our supervisors and provide the necessary infrastructure.

Through transcultural exchange, we create the basis for mutual understanding and awareness about cultural identities and the topic of migration.





# THE EDUCATION CENTER

## A SAFE PLACE, A PLACE OF ENCOUNTERS. (OBJECTIVES, FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS ENSURED, ACTIVITIES, MONITORING AND EVALUATION)

The basic objectives of the Education Center remain unchanged, but are continuously supplemented by new knowledge and experience. Our main goal is to create and improve future prospects for children and young people.

The main sub-goals:

- Promoting emotions that arouse interest and enthusiasm
- Strengthening self-confidence and social skills
- Promoting creativity, critical thinking and intrinsic motivation
- Improvement in school performance

## SECURED FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS (SINCE 2004)

Since the Education Center was built in 2004, the framework conditions have been continuously improved to provide children and young people with an ideal environment for their development. The most important elements are:

### THE EDUCATION CENTER - A SAFE PLACE

The Education Center is not only a physical shelter, but also a place of trust and security. Here, children and young people can develop and discover new interests. This is achieved through:

- Focusing on their strengths instead of their weaknesses
- Telling stories that arouse emotions
- The targeted promotion of individual talents
- Accepting mistakes as an essential part of the learning process

### A PLACE FOR SOCIAL ENCOUNTERS

The Center promotes interaction between children, young people, employees, volunteers from all over the world and visitors. The classic teacher-pupil dynamic is deliberately avoided in order to create an atmosphere of equality and mutual respect. Trust and a feeling of security form the basis for this exchange.

### CREATING LASTING POSITIVE MEMORIES

Through activities and personal experiences, the Education Center creates memories that strengthen the self-confidence of children and young people. Numerous studies have shown how important positive experiences are for mental health and development.





## FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Center provides free internet access for research purposes and regularly organises workshops on current topics, including digital literacy and internet safety. These measures open up new perspectives and sources of knowledge for children and young people.

## SUPPORT IN LEARNING THE PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE

The children's mother tongue is Creole, while Portuguese is a prerequisite at school without being taught as a foreign language. The Education Center closes this gap through playful learning in kindergarten and exchanges with Portuguese volunteers. In this way, the children learn Portuguese naturally, without the pressure of school.

### Child labor

(told by Suzeth / IT trainer)

In an open discussion in the IT room about all kinds of topics, Saná, aged 12, told us about his time in Guinea, where he was born. When he was 9 years old, his father took him out of school and he had to go to work with him.

"If my mother hadn't brought me to Cape Verde, I would have grown up without an education."

## ACTIVITIES 2024

The Education Center's programmes in 2024 included:

- School support in the form of homework help and tutoring
- Educational games on and off the pitch (football 3 tournaments etc.)
- Computer science lessons and free Internet access for research purposes
- Language lessons (English, French and Portuguese)
- Workshops, film screenings and discussions on relevant topics
- Educational, sporting and cultural events
- Kindergarten
- Art lessons
- Music lessons: singing, guitar, drums and piano lessons
- Dance lessons
- Football training and games at weekends for different age groups
- Slackline lessons
- Sewing lessons (since October 2024)
- Batuco (drum-singing-dancing tradition of women)
- Forest garden and tree nursery

Holiday camps were also held again in 2024, which were a special highlight for the children and young people.





# MONITORING OF THE PARTICIPANTS

## PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION AND SUPPORT

All participants at the Education Center are registered in the Delta-Cultura database. In addition to basic information, the database also contains details of the participants' social background.

Each participant is assigned to a member of staff as the responsible contact person. This person is responsible for

- Checking attendance
- the monitoring of school performance
- building a basis of trust.

If necessary, the person responsible will visit the parents/guardians to discuss any problems, such as irregular attendance, and to get to know the child's environment better.

## INTERNAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The concerns of the individual participants are discussed in weekly team meetings (a total of 39 such meetings were held in 2024).

The most common challenges that are discussed include:

- Irregular participation in programmes,
- Theft,
- Violence as a problem-solving strategy,
- School dropouts,
- Indications of serious problems in the home environment.

Last year, many of these problems were related to the emigration of parents, relatives or friends, which led to emotional stress for the children and young people.

In such cases, the educators pay particular attention to the children concerned. Abnormal behaviour is analysed and discussed together with psychologists or teachers who are close to the Education Center.

## EVALUATION OF THE OFFERS

A recurring theme of the meetings is the evaluation of the activities from the perspective of the children and young people:

- Are the programmes accepted?
- How can they be improved?
- What opinions do the children and young people have about the programmes?

These issues are discussed particularly intensively in the team meetings before and after the summer holidays in order to develop new approaches and find solutions.

## SIGNIFICANT INNOVATIONS IN 2024

Two major innovations were introduced in 2024:

- Support for young people aged 15 and over

As many young people lose interest in the activities from the age of around 15, a long-standing counsellor (Cutchinha) took on the task of organizing regular discussion groups with this age group. Activities are selected and organized together with the young people.



These meetings have been held regularly since October 2024, often at weekends.

On special occasions, such as birthdays, the young people spend the night at the Education Center.

Weekend excursions are firmly planned for the beginning of 2025.

■ Additional team meeting for innovation

In addition to the meetings about participants, another weekly team meeting was introduced, which focuses on innovative ideas to improve the Center's services. The aim is to break the daily routine and present children and young people with new challenges.

The ideas developed are gradually integrated into the everyday life of the Education Center.

### The white tourists

(told by Cutchinha / educator)



As there are always volunteers from Europe at the Education Center and many tourists visit Tarrafal, we often talk to the children about

why they shouldn't just beg tourists or volunteers. I asked Ariana, 7 years old, whether she does the same thing - hanging on the coat tails of tourists and begging them for money or food.

Ariana was horrified by the question:

"It always annoys me when I see children doing that and I ask them if they're embarrassed to beg the tourists."

The reaction of Christiano, a 13-year-old boy from a very poor background, was completely different. He knows exactly what to say to the tourists:

"I always tell them I need pens and exercise books for school. As they don't have these things with them, they often give me money."

"And do you also use it for school supplies?"

"I'm not stupid. Then I'll buy myself something to eat."

## SUCCESS INDICATORS

Our approach will remain unchanged in 2024: Instead of tests and grades, we rely on personal support and alternative evaluation methods.

Indicators that demonstrate the success of the Education Center and are listed in this report

- Number of educational activities carried out in 2024,
- Number of sports, cultural and educational events organised in 2024,
- Anecdotes from everyday life at the education centre, told by carers,
- Quotes and drawings by the children and young people,
- Comments from employees,
- the story of a long-time participant,
- Statements from stakeholders.

Despite all the figures and methods of evaluation, the most important thing remains that every child is happy, can develop freely and is allowed to be who they are - these valuable aspects are difficult to summarize in statistics.

### Ariana and country life

(told by Cutchinha / educator)

Ariana is 11 years old and until recently lived in a very small, remote village called Lagoa in the mountains. Her story about life there is impressive:

"When I still lived in Lagoa and we wanted to go to Prinzipal or the town of Tarrafal, we either had to walk there or take the donkey. But that was normal for me. We passed lots of fruit trees and I always ate lots of fruit on the way. We ate very healthily and were hardly ever ill. We only had sweet things when tourists passed by in Lagoa and gave us sweets. Otherwise, we ate lots of vegetables from the garden.

When we moved to Tarrafal, I got lazy and now I don't want to walk anywhere at all. Although I also realize how bad the many cars are for the air. The air here is somehow much drier ... If the people from Lagoa hadn't all left, I would have liked to stay there. Life was more pleasant there."





## REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER OF THE EDUCATION CENTER

The year 2024 has barely begun and is already over. How does time do that? I suppose it doesn't just go by to annoy me. There must be other reasons as well.

So I have spent another year managing the project and still enjoy the Education Center, which is populated with lively children, and which has not seen any major changes in 2024. The most important prerequisite, namely that the children and young people love the Center and enjoy coming here, is still fulfilled.

At least the very young children and those up to around 15 years of age are big fans of the Education Center. We have always struggled with the presence of older youngsters. Many of them lose interest in learning

and sometimes even enjoy playing football. Incidentally, the Ministry of Education also complains about the many school dropouts at this age. What could be the reason for this? ...

In our analysis team meeting in July, shortly before the summer holidays, we looked for solutions to this problem in working groups and of course found them. We then started to implement these ideas in September. First and foremost, Cutchinha. Her description of the activities with the young people can be found in this report.

My personal focus over the past year has been on organizing the planned Education Forum. And I am currently





in the phase of realizing it, where I regret having started it in the first place. But I already know this feeling. It will pass and will soon be just a memory.

The co-operation - if one can speak of it at all - with the Ministry of Education and the municipality regarding the Education Forum is very tedious. Unfortunately, it is not possible to communicate by e-mail with those responsible at these institutions. I am still waiting for a reply to the welcome email I sent when Delta Cultura started its activities in 2002. But they are all very enthusiastic about the idea of this Education Forum. Nobody disputes its importance, but there is no concrete support. But as I did not really expect it either - there was of course a little hope lurking somewhere inside me - I'm not discouraged by this. The municipality will of course provide the infrastructure and help with transport etc., and the Ministry of Education will send school headmasters and teachers, and we will all be hugging each other in congratulations ...

The last, initially somewhat bitter setback was the recent cancellation of the personal participation of the scientists from the University of Southern California. But I had a very nice phone call with my favorite neuroscientist Immordino Yang, in which she agreed to record a talk that we can play back, and she will be available for answering questions online afterwards.

A very short extract from an interview with her that can be found online:

"The education system should organise the learning process in such a way that a young person can think about the world they live in, but also about the world they want to create ... that is good education."

I've been quoting this a lot recently because it expresses something I've been thinking about a lot: should education teach values or should education teach young people to question their values? There is no quick, clear answer to this question. Not for me, that is. But anyone who knows me knows which way I am leaning. Because if I want a young person to think about their life, I don't think I can achieve that by telling them what values they should live by.

A good approach in this regard also comes from a dear friend who told me: "We teach values anyway because we live them and the children see that. So 'learning to question values' is more appropriate."

Generally speaking, I would like to say with regard to the year 2024 that the Education Village, i.e. the Education 27 project, which is also described very briefly in this report, is not progressing fast enough for me. But that's because I have to manage the existing Education Center on the side, I'm still responsible for ensuring that there is funding - although I now have help from Manuela - the Education Forum doesn't organise itself and, above all, it doesn't finance itself ... I still have to teach it to do that. That would be something: an artificially intelligent education forum that finances itself.

But it is actually planned to organise this Education Forum at least every two years. As a fixed component of Education 27, so to speak. May it all succeed.

Florian Wegenstein





## EDUCATION 27

Education 27 is transforming the existing Delta Cultura Education Center into a publicly recognized educational institution with school status. Delta Cultura combines the findings of educational science with two decades of practical experience in educational work. This forms the basis for a comprehensive and forward-looking educational concept.

An important step towards this educational institution is the Education Forum organized by Delta Cultura in collaboration with national universities in Tarrafal in April 2025. One of the aims of this forum is to bring together international and national academics, Delta Cultura and those responsible for education in Cape Verde in order to jointly drive forward the implementation of the concept.

Delta Cultura is working intensively on the further elaboration of this educational concept. Some of the most important measures that have already been developed and scientifically substantiated are:

- The foundation of creating a place where children and young people come together with joy and enthusiasm is laid with the exciting Education Center. This positive approach will also be maintained in the emerging educational project.

- Educational village instead of traditional school building: Education will not take place in a traditional school building, but in an educational village based on the existing infrastructure of the Education Center.
- Integration of the entire community: The educational village is not only brought to life by pupils and teachers, but also involves the entire population. From babies to senior citizens. From people from a wide range of professions to the unemployed. In this way, the socio-cultural background, as an important educational factor, is taken into account.
- Involvement of the town of Tarrafal: The entire town is integrated into the educational project. Children and young people gain knowledge and experience in craft businesses, in the health sector, in the community, with the police, fire department and other institutions.
- Learning through community: Children and young people learn not only from trained teachers, but also from each other and from older members of the community. This is based on the knowledge that the teacher is the most important factor for learning success.

- **Linking areas of knowledge:** The different areas of knowledge are interlinked and viewed from different perspectives. Learners work independently, creatively and innovatively, supported by mentors from different areas.
- **New evaluation methods:** Constant traditional tests and grading put unnecessary pressure on many learners. While tests after a learning unit are useful to consolidate what has been learned, they will be used in this sense. Alternative methods are being developed to evaluate learning progress and the ability to integrate knowledge into everyday life.
- **Focus on mental health:** Special attention is paid to the mental health of children and young people. Stressful situations should be avoided and healthy competitive situations such as games should be encouraged.
- **Promoting critical thinking:** Critical thinking and the ability to question values are encouraged through personal conversations, discussion groups and practical presentations.
- **Creativity through artistic activities:** Artistic activities such as visual arts, applied arts, music, dance and theater are increasingly promoted in order to foster the creativity that is so important for a successful life.
- **Development of intrinsic motivation:** The focus is on the development of intrinsic motivation, which promotes discipline and perseverance. How this can be successfully implemented remains the subject of intensive research with the help of science.

With Education 27, Delta Cultura is determined to create a model for future-oriented and sustainable education that not only imparts knowledge, but also promotes the holistic development of children and young people and brings social change into the world.

Education 27 is not a static concept, but an educational project that is constantly evolving and changing.

## Stupid weekend

(told by Cutchinha / educator)



One Friday, Elciany, 9 years old and at the Education Center since kindergarten, came to me and said with a sad face that she wasn't feeling too well today. "Why not? What happened?" "Because today is Friday and tomorrow and the day after tomorrow the Education Center is closed. Those are my least favorite days."

## School and homework

(told by Samir / educator)

I spoke to Katiliane, 10 years old, about school in general. I told her that we wanted to expand the Education Center into a school. But she only believed me after Katia confirmed it to her.

Katiliane was convinced: "When the time comes, I'll deregister from school and register here."

"Will there be homework at your school?" she wanted to know.

I explained to her that this would not happen in this form, as we would organize it differently.

Katiliane was surprised: "A school without homework?"



That would be a school for the stupid." And after a moment's thought: "But I'll enroll with you anyway, because you like us and you won't beat us."





# EDUCATION CENTER AND BATUCO

## REPORT FROM MARISA - FOUNDER / DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

I've been working at the Education Center for many years now and I'm still learning every day. The Education Center is a very free place. We all learn from each other here.

I often have to think about how many children I have met and accompanied over the years. It must be close to a thousand. Of course, there are so many wonderful memories.

The Education Center is my employer, my contact with the children I love, but my greatest passion is and remains Batuco. My Batuco group, consisting only of women.

I invest a lot of time and energy in this tradition. I write the songs myself, I practice them with the BatuCADEIRAS and we sing them a lot at private parties such as weddings, at village festivals and music festivals, and more and more in the evenings in restaurants where tourists go.

I also organise the annual BatuCO Festival, which is also responsible for keeping the BatuCO tradition alive. When I was a child, we used to dance BatuCO in the evenings when it got dark in the street where I grew up. Later, electricity and television arrived, people went out much less in the evening and the tradition almost died out. As BatuCO is a very important part of me and my history, I wanted to counteract this. The festival was a great success. BatuCO is now a lively, living tradition.

I also want to keep this tradition alive at the Education Center and often drum, sing and dance with the children

at the Education Center. My daughter Idalena, who now also works at the Education Center, also supports me a lot. She is one of the best dancers I have.

I wish the Education Center and all the children and young people that the Education Center will be around for a long time to come and that we will soon be able to put our ideas about education into practice. That's what I work for every day.

Estela Amarília Cabral Correia (Marisa)

### Too much violence (told by Idalena / educator)

Denise is 8 years old. We have a very good relationship and talk often.

I remember a conversation in which I asked her if she liked it at the Education Center.

"Yes, I'd much rather be here than at home."

Of course I asked why.

"Because my mum always beats me. For every little thing ... If I could, I'd rather live here at the Education Center. We can do what we want here. It's nicer here."





## THE DELTA CULTURA TEAM 2024

There were fewer employee changes in 2024 than in the previous year. Visas for Portugal are still being issued without restraint, but in 2024 only one of the employees (Lenise, a gardener in the tree nursery) answered the call to the promised land.

Bruno is a new member of the team. He has taken over the IT lessons from Suzeth, who now only works part-time and has taken on the supervision of the children in the homework area. Bruno also coaches the U11 and plays for the men's team.

**Bottom row from left to right:** Fanta (gardener, tree nursery/since 2024), Mai (cook/since 2016), Romila (volunteer, former participant), Jassica (kindergarten educator/since 2011), Suzeth (educator/since 2010), Carina (educator, football coach/since 2023), Marisa (founder, Batucadeira, head of cultural department/since 2004)

**Middle row from left to right:** Pilika (nursery manager/since 2023), Margarida (kindergarten supervisor/since 2023), Idalena (educator/since 2023), Katia (administration, public relations, education forum/since 2019), Uzy (dance teacher/since 2023), Rita (cleaner/since 2023), Cutchinha (educator,

Carina has been a permanent employee since September 2024. She does homework with the children and coaches the U9 and is also a player in the women's team.

Delta Cultura had to say goodbye to the Portuguese music teacher who joined us at the beginning of the year after the trial month. Since then, Elias has taken his place.

trainer/since 2009), Manuela with daughter Maya (administration, fundraising, education forum/since 2023)

**Top row from left to right:** Elton (driver, caretaker/since 2023), Elias (music teacher/since 2023), Bruno (IT teacher, football coach/since 2024), Mana (cleaner/since 2024), Samir (educator/since 2011), Florian (founder, project manager/since 2004), Nene (educator, football coach/since 2004)

**Missing:** Gilson (project management, programme coordinator/since 2013)

Denis (slackline instructor/since 2023)

The two watchmen Joao and Kudo





## REPORT MILIANA (CUTCHINHA)

### EDUCATOR AT DELTA CULTURA SINCE 2009

At our team meeting at the start of the 2024/2025 school year, we decided to focus more on the young people at the Education Center. Many of them, especially those around the age of 15, often lose interest in our programmes.

As I have always had a good connection with the young people and they often tell me about their challenges in everyday life, at school, at home and in the village community, we have decided that I will set up activities that correspond to their interests and motivate them to participate.

I started by inviting all the young people enrolled - including the players on my women's team, which I coach - to a meeting. I asked them directly what they would like to do, what interests them and what could make them come to the Education Center more often.

We initially arranged a weekly meeting where we meet and discuss various topics. This group has now been meeting regularly for several months. Sometimes I choose the topics, but often the young people come up with their own suggestions. We talk about topics such as juvenile delinquency, which is currently a major problem in Tarrafal, or about hygiene and menstruation, drug abuse, gender equality and much more.

During one of our first meetings, we came up with the idea of spending a weekend together at the Center. We wanted to cook together, play games that would bring us closer together and help us get to know each other better, and round off the evening with music and dancing.

The first weekend camp was a great success. All the participants were enthusiastic, including about the games I had chosen. We have therefore decided to organize such camps on a regular basis.

At our second camp, we organized a so-called World Café: three tables, each with a specific topic. Florian led the topic "School of the future", Samir moderated the discussion about the high number of school dropouts in Tarrafal, and I took on the topic "Dangers of internet use". The discussions were very interesting and we were able to provide valuable information, especially in the area of internet dangers.

Florian later told me that the young people had hardly any ideas for a "school of the future". They were too strongly rooted in the traditional ideas of school: frontal teaching, tests and grades.

For the future, we are planning excursions and overnight stays in places other than the Education Center. I am convinced that young people need variety to keep them motivated.

One thing is certain: this work with young people requires continuity in order to achieve the impact we are aiming for - critically thinking young people who are able to question their values and act in a reflective manner.



## FURTHER TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES 2024

Further training has always been a central topic at the Education Center, and the project management is continuously committed to bringing expertise from relevant specialist areas to the Center. The following training courses were held in 2024:

- **Workshop on conflict resolution with Time-Child-School (Switzerland)**

Representatives from the co-operation partner Zeit-Kind-Schule led a workshop on conflict resolution on site. They brought along a specially developed card game that can be used in conflict situations. The game promotes an understanding of the needs that are often disregarded in conflicts and can be used in conflict situations.

- **Further training by Suzethe (IT trainer for many years)**

Suzethe has been studying psychology online for the past two years. In February 2024, she presented findings on promoting mental health and overcoming stressful thought patterns.

- **Workshop with counselling therapist Maria Pardal**

Maria Pardal, an acquaintance of the kindergarten supervisor Margarida, visited the Education Center in June. She worked directly with the children to analyse learning deficits and also held a workshop with the staff. The topics were:

- Importance of the early years of child development
- Communication in the family
- Stimulation for children

- **Workshops on neuroscience and education**

Project manager Florian has acquired a profound knowledge of neuroscientific findings on education

and learning over the years. He passes this knowledge on to the educators in regular workshops in order to promote innovative approaches at the Education Center.

- **Workshop on health**

In June, the Cape Verdean health organisation Verdefam held a workshop on reproductive health.

- **In November/December, the Education Center was once again visited by Samuel Glatz.**

The Austrian football trainer and physiotherapist always brings a great deal of knowledge from these areas to the Education Center. This year, in addition to new knowledge about age-appropriate football training, the trainers also learned how to apply kinesiological tape to the knee, ankle and thigh when treating common football injuries.

- **Online training courses through partner organisations**

Partners such as Common Goal regularly offer online courses that are actively used by educators.

### **Experience as the greatest asset**

In addition to regular further training, Delta Cultura's greatest asset is the many years of practical experience in the education sector that almost all employees have (see "The team"). This experience forms the basis for all of the Education Center's programmes.

The combination of further training and experience means that all children and young people benefit in the long term from the high quality of the programmes and from the latest findings in the field of education.





# Education Forum Tarrafal

Bridging Science and Practice

## TARRAFAL EDUCATION FORUM: SCIENCE MEETS PRACTICE

The Tarrafal Education Forum, which will take place on 9th, 10th and 11th of April 2025, is a milestone for the Delta Cultura Education Centre and the “Education 27” project. This forum brings together international academics, Cape Verdean education stakeholders and the community to discuss innovative approaches to education.

Two days of the event will be dedicated to a conference at which experts from the fields of neuroscience, psychology and alternative education will present their research findings. A particular highlight is the participation of leading scientists such as representatives from ETH Zurich, the CANDLE Institute of the University of Southern California (online) and the University of Cape Verde. They will provide insights into the latest findings on the neuroscience of learning, the importance of transcendental thinking and psychological aspects of education. These lectures create a solid scientific basis for the further development of “Education 27”.

On the third day, the “World Café” promotes exchange between the participants and enables ideas and perspectives to be developed further in an open dialogue.

At the same time, the Education Center will present its work and the new “Education 27” project. Workshops, educational presentations from other NGOs and creative contributions from the children round off the programme. Cultural programmes in the evening bring science, practice and community together in an inspiring way.

The forum aims to develop concrete measures to reform the Cape Verdean education system, strengthen networks between science and practice and initiate sustainable educational innovations. The active participation of academics emphasizes the scientific relevance and interdisciplinary nature of the event.

### **Thiago defends monogamy** (told by Carina / educator)

During a computer science lesson, the topic of love and being in love came up. Thiago, an 8-year-old boy, expressed his views on the subject with a surprising amount of indignation:

“These guys who have several women at the same time, they should all be locked up. They’re just making fun of women.”



## The search for a lifelong dream

(told by Cutchinha / educator)



Edlene is 19 years old and has been at the Delta Cultura Education Center for her entire school career. Edlene has an extraordinary talent for movement. She was the first footballer to be recognized by all the boys and everyone wanted her in their team.

One day I sat with her and we philosophized about life. As I knew that Edlene had grown up with her aunt because the aunt would otherwise have been alone, I asked her about her family.

“I’m always worried about my family,” she ex-

plained, “whether they have everything they need, whether they’re doing well, things like that. But conversely, no one in my family has ever asked me how I’m doing. Or what I dream of in life. So at some point I got to the point where I knew I had to take my life into my own hands.

I immediately thought of Florian, who has always helped me when I needed something. And so I’ve already taken my first steps today. I’ve started studying online, I’m still playing football at Delta Cultura and I’m happy.”

### Katiliany

(10 years old)

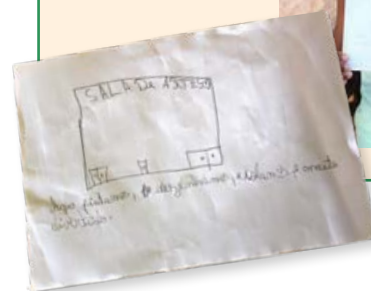
I really like Delta (note: the Education Center) because there are lots of things I like doing here.



### Taiça

(8 years old)

Art space. We paint, draw and glue here. It's a lot of fun.



### Rudmilson is hungry (told by Carina / educator)

Rudmilson is 14 years old. I was sitting with him on the sidelines when Samir came by with a tourist whom he was showing around the Education Center. When Rudmilson saw him, he said he was going to beg him for money.

“No, don’t do that,” I advised him. “Aren’t you embarrassed?”

“No,” he replied, “the ‘whites’” - (the children always call tourists “brancos”, i.e. “white people”) - “are here to be begged.”

“Why? Do you always do that when you see white people?”

“No. Actually, only when I’m hungry and know that there’s no food at home.”



# DENISE



Denise Soares Gomes is 17 years old and has been part of Delta Cultura since she was six years old. She grew up in Tarrafal, in a family that had to deal with major challenges. Her father has not been with her mother since she was born and her relationship with him is difficult. Nevertheless, Denise has never lost heart. Her mother, who has health problems herself and regularly has to go to the capital of Praia for treatment, did everything she could to support Denise as much as she could.

“The Education Center is my second home,” answers Denise when asked what Delta Cultura means to her. Not only has she made friends for life here, she has also developed important skills. She learnt how to use computers for the first time in the IT room. She has been attending language courses in English, French and Portuguese for many years and also regularly takes part in the musical and artistic programmes.



Denise discovered her passion for football at the age of 6. “Since then, football has been an important constant in my life,” explains Denise. To this day, she trains regularly and is usually deployed as a full-back in matches. In 2024, she was part of the team that won the regional championship. She also took part in the national championship for the first time. “We could have done better, but it was a great experience travelling to another island with all my friends and playing in the championship.”

As a young pupil, the tutors at the Education Center still had to do homework with Denise. However, she soon developed into a good pupil and rarely needed extra help and if so only in mathematics.

In recent years, Denise has become close friends with Katia, who works in administration at Delta Cultura. Katia helps her with internet research and other school-related tasks. Katia says about Denise: “She has an impressive ability to understand things quickly and she has a strong will. She also doesn’t have to study for hours to memorize things.”

Denise also likes to point out the many competitions she has won at the Education Center. Denise, the serial winner ...

When asked about the best memories of her many years at the Education Center, Denise has to think for a while. “There were so many wonderful and important things that I experienced here. Especially the many friendships I made here. But of all the activities on offer, I re-





member the holiday activities the most, the many different games we played. And of course the highlight was always the summer camp at the Education Center.”

Denise talks enthusiastically about how she experienced team spirit, cohesion and joie de vivre at the Education Center. The bond that she has built up with the other participants and volunteers has remained strong over the years. She would like to visit some of the volunteers in Portugal when she moves there after finishing school to meet her brother and make plans for the future. “So many Cape Verdeans want to seek a better life abroad. I want that too. I grew up with this desire.”

Her goal is to become an entrepreneur or manager one day. At the same time, however, she also says that she is aware that she comes from a family with limited financial resources. This realism has shaped her and gives her the motivation to make something of her life. She is an example of how Delta Cultura not only imparts knowledge to young people, but also gives them the courage to believe in themselves and rise above their circumstances.

Denise has inspired not only herself but also those around her with her energy and determination. She is a living example of the success of Delta Cultura and the impact that a supportive environment can have on young people. What Denise has learnt with us will accompany her on her journey - and perhaps one day this journey will lead her back to Tarrafal.







# GENDER EQUALITY: SO TO SPEAK!

## REPORT FROM KATIA, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND EDUCATOR

The municipality of Tarrafal with its 16,620 inhabitants is shrinking day by day due to the high emigration rate of the young population. Despite its small size, it is still very traditional, religious and rooted in patriarchal customs in which “the man is allowed to do everything” and the woman must be a “good wife”. Certain ideas about what is expected of a girl and a boy still prevail, which is also reflected in social judgements. Although this discrimination is not explicit, it is subtle and veiled, which makes it even more difficult to address and solve the problem.

Girls and women have long been conditioned to behave in a way that accepts as normal male behavior that should not be tolerated. Clear examples are verbal and physical harassment, which is often seen as “normal male behaviour”. In addition, women are still associated with housework, even though they do most of the work and take on the role of housewife and provider/educator, while men are at best only providers.

There is confusion about what equality and feminism really mean. Many young people believe that if a woman wants to be equal to a man, she should do everything he does. Feminism is seen as a rejection of men or associated with “strange ideas” such as the division of parental responsibilities. Women in politics are seen as “egalitarian”, but voters continue to vote for men. There is also a lack of sisterhood among women, which perpetuates gender stereotypes. Women’s financial independence is seen as a threat, when in reality it only means equal opportunities and rights.

For 22 years, Delta Cultura has been campaigning for children’s rights and promoting gender equality, quality

education and opportunities for girls and boys. Since its foundation, Delta Cultura has been a pioneer in the creation of women’s football teams on the island of Santiago and in the introduction of mixed teams, marking the beginning of a new approach to sport. Every year on the occasion of International Women’s Day, Delta Cultura organizes a women’s football tournament under the motto “Lugar di Mudjer é Undi Kê Kre” (A woman should be where she wants to be). This event aims to recognize female talent in sport and raise awareness of the importance of gender equality. Lectures and talks at the Education Center on topics such as discrimination, equality and harassment are also promoted.

The trainer and counsellor Miliana Moreno (Cutchinha) currently meets with the young people on a weekly basis to address various topics, with the focus always being on critical reflection. (see Cutchinha’s report)

The aim is to encourage young people to question the traditional roles prescribed by society. What does an egalitarian society mean in practice? What are the real roles of men and women in this context? What concrete benefits can gender equality bring for everyone? How can you, the men and women of the future, contribute to a fairer and more equitable world? It is important that they express their ideas and opinions independently and without external influences.

How bright will our future be?

Katia Soares



## DELTA CULTURA KINDERGARTEN

Delta Cultura's kindergarten currently welcomes a diverse group of 30 children aged between 2 and 5 years. They attend the kindergarten every day between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm.

The main aim of Delta Cultura's kindergarten is to offer children a safe and welcoming space where they can play freely, learn about topics that interest them and develop on different cognitive, emotional, social, intellectual and physical levels.

In this learning space, the child's voice is valued and used as the most important learning tool. Every day, the children's interests are listened to so that the pedagogical team can develop stimulating activities and moments that correspond to what the children want to learn and explore. In this way, the children, their interests and needs are at the center of our educational activities, as they are competent and active subjects who have their own will and their own thoughts and as such always deserve a sympathetic ear.

It is important that children feel safe and loved and that their opinions are valued so that they develop a positive self-esteem and enjoy learning.

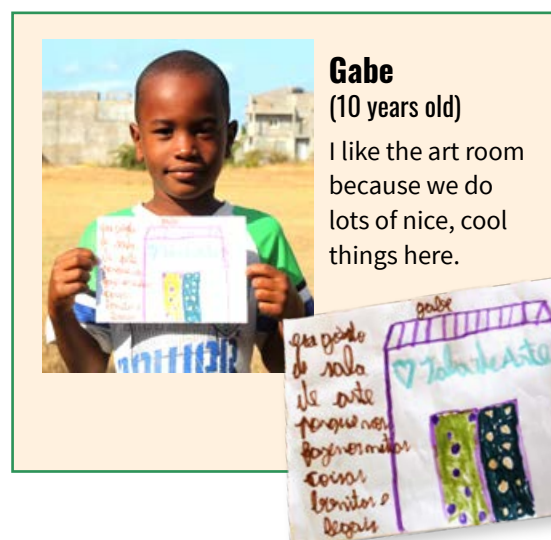
Free play also plays a fundamental role in our kindergarten, as it is through play that children learn and develop best. Play is a free and spontaneous activity that is present from the first years of life and helps children to understand the world around them by exploring the five senses, as well as contributing to their holistic development and the expression of their individuality.

In our kindergarten we are inspired by various educational models such as Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia, Active Listening Pedagogy, the Project Methodology Model and MEM (Modern School Movement). We do not adhere to a single model because, in our opinion and taking into account the group of children, it makes more sense to utilize the best that each model has to offer.

Margarida Vicente - kindergarten counsellor

**„No social problem is more universal than the oppression of children“**

Maria Montessori







## SEWING COURSES AT DELTA CULTURA

The sewing lessons take place in the art room and are organized by Suzete and Margarida, with Suzete working with the children in the morning and Margarida in the afternoon (after the end of kindergarten).

During the lessons, the young people have the opportunity to learn various skills such as embroidery, lace-making or sewing, although most of them are interested in sewing.

The lessons take place in a free form, in which the children present their idea and, together with the teacher, begin the process of drawing, cutting out and later sewing. In this way, the child's voice is valued and emphasized, as they can decide for themselves what they want to sew.

In addition, lessons recognize children's creativity and ability to solve problems and make decisions when faced

with challenges. It is also important to recognize how everyone helps each other to develop their products and share suggestions and ideas.



### Disputes can be prevented

(told by Cutchinha / educator)

Gaby and Lisandro, both 10 years old, were arguing and even hitting each other. I settled the argument and asked what had happened. The argument arose as follows: Lisandro was playing a game with Gaby's younger sister Florestina. Florestina won, but Lisandro didn't want to accept it. They started arguing and Lisandro hit Florestina. Gaby stepped in to defend his younger sister and a fight broke out between Lisandro and Gaby.

A few weeks earlier, we had a workshop in which we were given playing cards with different emotions and needs that can be used to settle disputes. I used this method with Lisandro, Gaby and Florestina. Gaby had already calmed down and was surprisingly reflective during the conversation: "I think I argue so much because I'm often treated unfairly and disrespected ... that makes me pick fights."

# DATA ON PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS

The programmes and events at the Education Center are constantly evolving. 2024 was also characterized by adaptations and new offers that were tailored to the needs of children and young people.

At the beginning of the year, music lessons started with a teacher from Portugal, but he had to leave the Center after a trial month as his approach to children contradicted the educational concept of Delta Cultura. Fortunately, Elias, a talented musician from the region, was able to take over this task. With his enthusiasm and closeness to the children's culture, he has given the music lessons a new dynamic. However, he is still young and needs help in giving lessons. Marisa supports him in this.

In October of this year, Margarida and Suzethe offered a weekly sewing course for interested participants. This new programme not only teaches craft skills, but also self-confidence and creativity. It was enthusiastically received by many participants.

From October, a special day has also been integrated into the monthly schedule that deliberately breaks with the daily routine. This so-called "Challenge

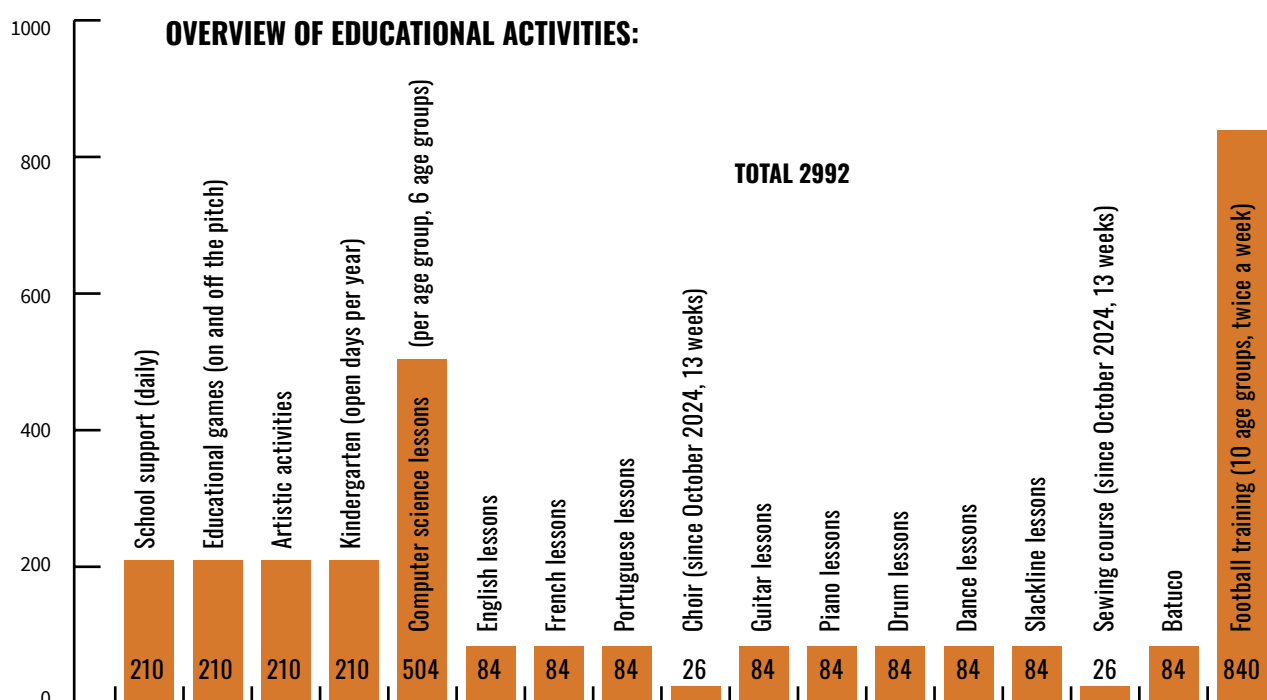
Day" focuses on playful challenges, creative tasks and team games. It not only promotes team spirit, but also inspires the children to face new situations and strengthen their problem-solving skills.

Otherwise, the Education Center 2024 continued to offer the same services as in previous years (see Activities of the Education Center 2024)

The growing variety of programmes reflects the Education Center's ongoing efforts to open up perspectives for children and young people through creative and practical activities and to promote their development in the long term.

## NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2024

This section lists all educational activities that were carried out at the Education Center in 2024. The figures provide an overview of the daily work of the Education Center. Even if certain deviations are possible due to public holidays or other cancellations, the data nevertheless illustrates the impressive range of offers for children and young people.



### Calculation of the figures:

- Number of active weeks per year: 42 (210 days), excluding weekends, the month of July (when only events take place) and August (holiday period).
- Daily activities: school support, educational games, kindergarten and artistic activities.
- Twice-weekly activities: IT lessons (6 age groups), football training (10 age groups), language lessons,

music lessons, dance lessons, slackline lessons, sewing lessons and Batuco.

With this wide range of services, the Education Center makes a valuable contribution to promoting education, creativity and social development in the community - a success that has also had a lasting impact on children and young people in 2024.



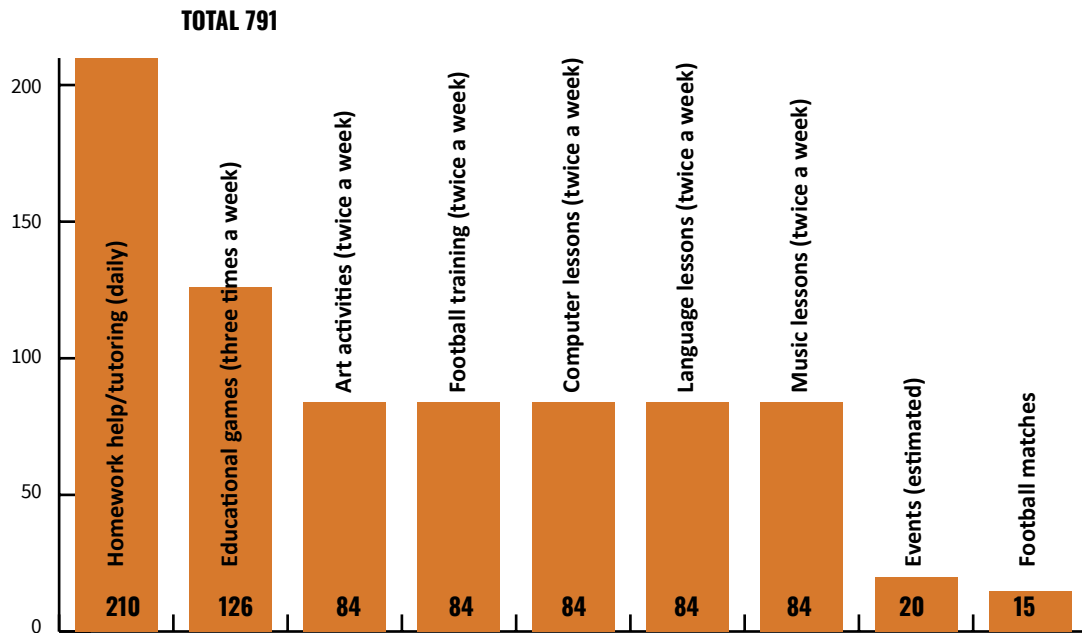


## ACTIVITY PER CHILD

This example illustrates the variety of activities offered by the Education Center. It is based on an assumed scenario that represents the active participation of a child in various activities over the course of a year.

Assumed participation of a child:

- Homework help/tutoring (daily): 210
- Educational games (three times a week): 126
- Art activities (twice a week): 84
- Football training (twice a week): 84
- Computer lessons (twice a week): 84
- Language lessons (twice a week): 84
- Music lessons (twice a week): 84
- Events (estimated): 20
- Football matches: 15



A child who regularly participates in the above-mentioned activities is involved in **791 educational activities** over the course of the year.

This impressive scope shows how the Education Center supports the development and promotion of each individual child through a wide range of offers, combining education, creativity and sporting activities.



## NUMBER OF EVENTS ORGANISED IN 2024

Delta Cultura organised a total of **110 events** in 2024. In the chart below, these are divided into sports, cultural and educational events. However, it is important to note that these categories are often interlinked: Many sporting events, such as the “Football 3” tournaments, also promote social skills, and cultural events also contribute to education.

### Sports events

The focus here was almost exclusively on football matches for the various age groups. In addition, “Olympic Games” were held during the school holidays, which included activities such as football, volleyball, games of skill and running competitions.

### Educational events

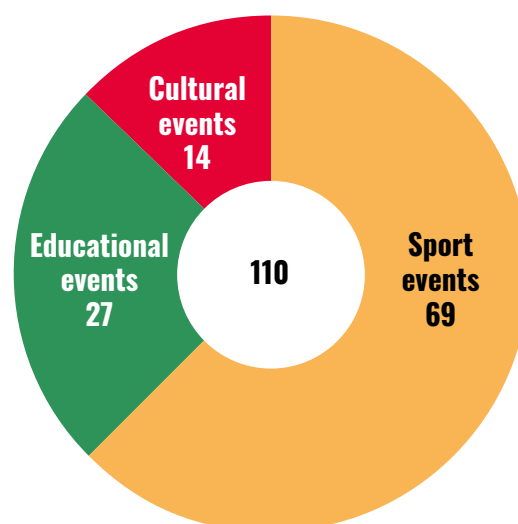
These included:

- Workshops on relevant topics
- Excursions to interesting places and sights
- Cleaning up the beach

### Cultural events

Mainly consisting of:

- Performances by the Batuco group
- The annual Batucofestival



### Thiago

(8 years old)

I like Delta because there is an art room, a room to study and a football pitch. I like Delta because

I can learn and play here. I like Delta because I can play with my friends here.



### Nerliny

(10 years old)





# PARTICIPANTS OF THE EDUCATION CENTER

The children and young people attend the Education Center every day from Monday to Friday, either in the morning from 08:00 to 11:00 or in the afternoon from 14:00 to 17:00, depending on whether they attend the public school in the morning or in the afternoon.

The kindergarten children also come from Monday to Friday and stay at the Center all day from 08:00 to 16:00. They receive a snack with fruit and a warm meal for lunch.

All participants in the various courses offered by the Education Center are registered in the Delta Cultura database. This is provided by the Austrian company Marmara and the long-standing Delta Cultura sponsor Rupert Helm.

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE EDUCATION CENTER

The focus is on children and young people from difficult social and economic backgrounds, but Delta Cultura does not exclude anyone, regardless of origin, religion or social circumstances.

Naturally, attention is paid to gender balance.

The children and young people of Tarrafal face different challenges:

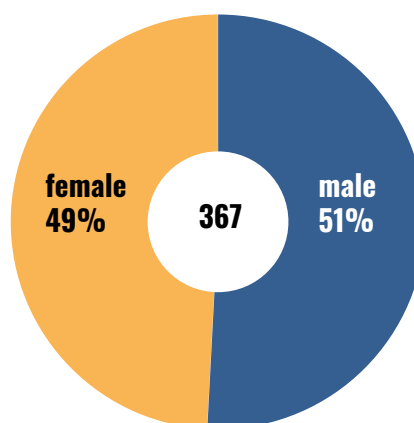
- The family situation is often difficult. The parents are often abroad looking for work, while the children grow up with grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends or neighbors.
- Violence is a common educational tool in many families. Many teachers also use physical violence in public schools, which weakens children's trust in the education system and makes them lose interest in learning.
- Many children only eat once a day. Breakfast often consists of leftovers from the previous day's dinner, and at lunchtime the plate often remains empty as no one cooks at home or can provide meals.
- There are hardly any leisure activities for children and young people. The few offers that do exist are mostly chargeable and therefore unaffordable for many.

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN DAILY PROGRAMMES

The total number of registered participants varies only slightly from year to year. All participants who take part in one or more activities are registered.

The total number of registered participants at the end of 2024/2025 was **367 (51% male / 49% female) children and young people**.

## OVERALL REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS 2024

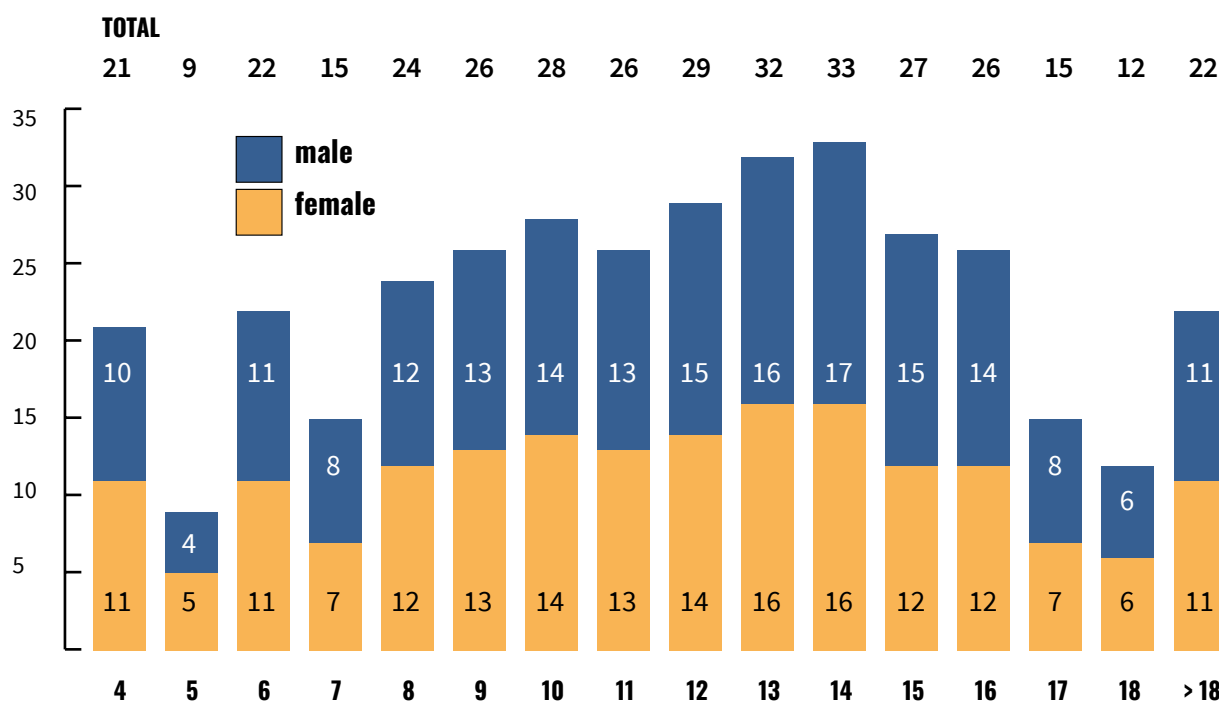


**Edmilson**  
(11 years old)  
Thank you Delta Cultura!



## PARTICIPANTS BY AGE GROUP

The breakdown by age group is as follows:



The individual activities are registered

- School support: 157
- Computer science lessons: 139
- English lessons: 38
- French lessons: 22
- Kindergarten: 30
- Guitar lessons: 9
- Piano lessons: 15
- Drum lessons: 22
- Choir: 11
- Dance lessons
- Football training sessions (all age groups): 215
- Slackline: 22
- Sewing lessons: 28
- Batuco: 17

There are also programmes that take place regularly, but in which participation is voluntary and children and young people do not have to enrol:

- Free internet access
- Educational games on and off the pitch
- Workshops, film screenings and discussions on relevant topics
- Art lessons
- Forest garden and tree nursery

**Leicy**  
(12 years old)





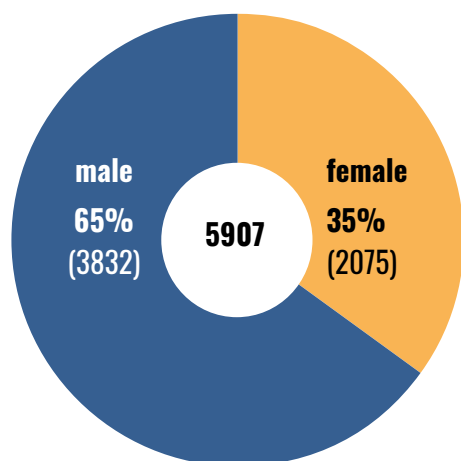
## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EDUCATIONAL, SPORTING AND CULTURAL EVENTS

The number of participants in these events is estimated, as a large number of children and young people from ot-

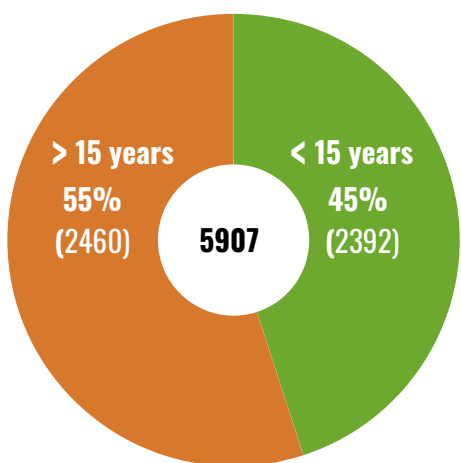
her municipalities often take part. **Estimated total number 2024: 5907**

### PARTICIPANTS IN EVENTS

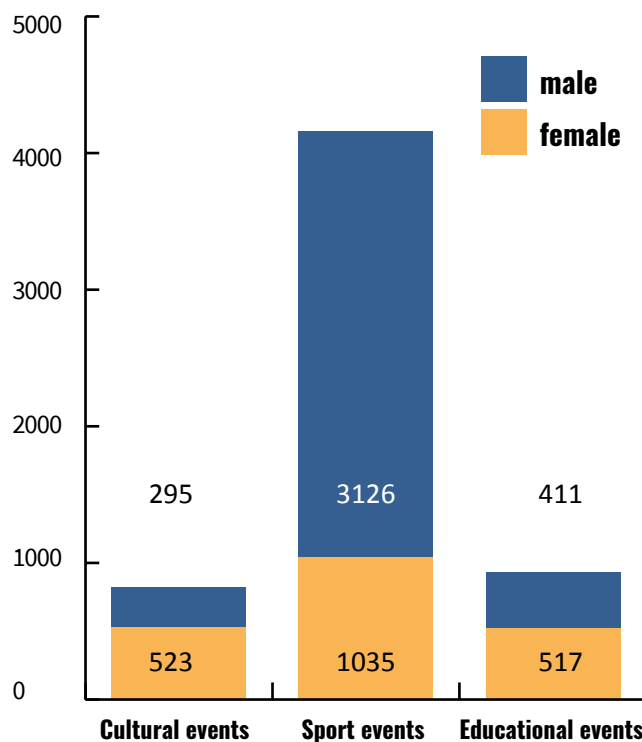
#### GENDER RATIO



#### AGE RATIO



### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS DIVIDED BY KIND OF EVENT



The majority of participants in Delta Cultura events are male, as many of the activities are football matches, which are predominantly attended by boys and men.

### INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

This report focuses on the direct beneficiaries of the daily programmes and events. However, there are also numerous indirect beneficiaries:

- The educational programmes of the Education Center improve the school performance of the participants, thereby improving the educational level of the public schools (approx. 4,200 pupils) in general.
- The activities at the Education Center relieve the burden on parents and guardians, who know that their children are being looked after and can therefore devote themselves to their work or to finding an activity.

- Delta Cultura organises many cleaning and beautification activities throughout the municipality. The entire population (9,000 inhabitants in Tarrafal) benefits from this.
- Delta Cultura also brought around €150,000 from foreign donors to Tarrafal in 2024. This money benefits the local economy.



# EDUCATION AND SPORT CREATE PERSPECTIVES!

## REPORT FROM SABINE AND SAMMY

*Samuel Glatz and Sabine Schwarz visited the Education Center in November/December. Firstly, here is the report by Samuel Glatz, known as Sammy:*

Movement, rhythm and creativity result in this carefree football.

I asked myself where some players get their technique from.

The answer lies in “trying things out for yourself”, copying each other, being allowed to make mistakes and little intervention from the coaches. Carefree football on a small pitch, without any major guidelines. Agility and speed are in the nature of most players. Whether barefoot, in slippers, with only one football boot on or with broken football boots, they play football with enthusiasm. This type of play continues with the Delta Tarrafal first team. Here you can see a free, fast-paced game of football with tactical measures that is both exciting and impressive.

As a result of this experience, my training methodology and approach to training with all age groups, including the outstanding women’s team, had changed. Less is more, regardless of whether it’s training with the feints, passing or playing forms, fewer interventions resulted in more quality and creativity in training and games.

Whether talented or less talented, emphasis is placed on the social aspect and the collective - football unites.

The appreciation that was shown to me and the enthusiasm in the training was visibly noticeable and an additional enrichment for me.



In taping workshops, I tried to pass on my knowledge to the counsellors so that the players would receive the best possible care after my return.

The combination of interest promotion, learning support and sport is a unique combination at Delta Cultura.

We both have the impression that the overabundance, guidelines and regulations that our children and young people are confronted with tend to inhibit their development and stand in the way of creativity.

*Sabine Schwarz talks about her impressions of the training Center:*

My partner Samuel Glatz (football coach and physiotherapist), who spent four weeks as a guest coach at the Delta Cultura Education Center with attached football school, and I, Sabine Schwarz (Product Manager for Health and Sport Education at WIFI Tirol) had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Center, which was founded by our friend Florian Wegenstein and Marisa Cabral, in November/December 2024.

The impressions we were able to experience there had a very lasting impact. In this country, where there are very few future prospects or training opportunities for young people, we realized how lucky we are to have been born and to live in a country where we and our children have so many opportunities and possibilities.



The people there have very little and lack everything. Many live in simple, makeshift houses and only have odd jobs in agriculture or construction. The young people all want to leave for Europe to find their fortune there. Delta Cultura wants to counteract this and create prospects through education.

The project has been an important component for young people in Tarrafal for 20 years.

The Delta Cultura Education Center with kindergarten, learning support, music and art room and adjoining football school creates a unique link between sport and learning.

We were both very impressed by how much creativity, curiosity, talent and enthusiasm these children and young people bring with them, even though they come from very humble and poor backgrounds and don't have anywhere near the opportunities and support that young people here in Europe have. We were both overwhelmed by this. It is therefore very important to us to be able to share our impressions.

As a product manager at WIFI Tirol (adult Education Center of the Tyrolean Chamber of Commerce), I feel committed to education and have made it my mission to support this great project, which I was able to experience myself with the many children and young people. Above all, I know that the donations and funding will go directly to the cause.

From the very first moment I arrived at the Delta Cultura Education Center and experienced the children with their carefree and inquisitive nature, I can only describe my experience with the feeling that "my heart was opened".

You can tell that the children at the Center are in very good hands with the whole team of educators, that they are supported and feel at ease. Florian Wegenstein is not only passionate about his work, but also stands by the young people and their parents when there is not enough money for the necessary glasses or medical treatment. One young player, who is now an integral part of the excellent women's team, suffered from epileptic seizures. Florian Wegenstein arranged for her to be examined in hospital, where it was discovered that she had a pig worm in her brain. After being treated with medication, she is now healthy and able to pursue her passion for football again. These are touching stories.

I am grateful that I was able to experience this. When you see how people live there, you feel humble and grateful to be able to live in a clean environment with running water and all the amenities. You can enjoy the simple things again. It is fascinating to see how much creativity these children develop in this poverty and how many talents they have.

A five-year-old boy who was walking past me suddenly stopped, turned round, came towards me and shook my hand.

There is great football talent there, both in the women's team and from the U7s to the adults. Like Edilene, for example, who has the shooting power of a boy, both left and right-legged. Romila, who was in Portugal but has returned because she wants to work at home with Delta Cultura and is a technical talent in the women's team.

Gabriela (in the 1<sup>st</sup> picture), who immediately took an interest in my mobile phone, took some great photos with it. These 4 photos are hers and I think she has an excellent eye for detail:



Or Patrizia, a lively little girl who has no fear of contact and was always looking for contact with a smile. Those were incredibly wonderful moments and impressions.

Florian Wegenstein is very interested in the neurological process of learning and talent development. We talked a lot about this and also about his vision of founding a publicly recognized educational institution under the name "Education 27". In my view, this is an important next step. In April 2025, an education forum will be held for this purpose, with international speakers from the fields of neuroscience and education.

**Let's help to give these young people a chance and make education possible!**



## THE EDUCATION CENTER IN THE COMMUNITY

The Education Center is located just outside the city center in an area that is becoming increasingly populated. Nevertheless, there are still no paved roads leading to the Center.

Despite its 20 years of existence, there are still many residents of Tarrafal who do not know about the Center. This naturally gives rise to various rumors, such as: “The children just play at the Education Center, they do not learn anything there.”

Indeed, such rumors are often spread by teachers who feel attacked by Delta Cultura’s educational philosophy. Some of them even defend the use of physical violence as a legitimate means of education and feel challenged by Delta Cultura’s approach, which emphasizes non-violence and emotional education.

Another problem is that some parents, although they see how much their children enjoy attending the Education Center, use it as a means of exerting pressure. They forbid their children to attend the Center as a punishment if they do not obey or if their school grades deteriorate.

Delta Cultura is meeting these challenges with two measures:

- “Delta na zona”: Once a month, Delta Cultura presents the work of the Education Center in the early evening hours in public places in Tarrafal. Videos from everyday life at the Center are shown and the staff explain Delta Cultura’s educational philosophy

These events often promote fruitful discussions that successfully counter prejudices such as “children only play and learn nothing”. However, it would be wrong to claim that this educational work completely solves the problem. The opinion of a school professor is often valued more highly in the community than that of the Center’s staff - even if they have trained as teachers.

- Home visits: Since October, the Education Center team has been using lunch breaks to visit parents whose children are either no longer allowed to go to the Center or are having difficulties at school. These visits are very well received by the parents. To the delight of the children, these discussions often lead to the ban on attending the Education Center being lifted as a punishment. This is probably also due to the fact that this punitive measure rarely has the desired effect: the children’s school grades do not improve if they stay away from the Education Center and instead spend their time aimlessly wandering the streets of Tarrafal.

These challenges will be overcome in the long term as soon as Delta Cultura succeeds in fully implementing the “Education 27” project.





## THE AGRO FORESTRY PROJECT AND THE TREE NURSERY AT THE EDUCATION CENTER

The agro forestry project and the tree nursery are central components of Delta Cultura's educational programmes and combine ecological education with practical sustainability. They offer children and young people the opportunity to learn more about environmental protection, agriculture and nutrition and to get actively involved if they show interest.

In the forest garden, various plants are grown in mixed crops that protect the soil and contribute to long-term food security. The tree nursery complements this project by growing over 1,000 trees per year, including fruit trees, shade trees and trees that promote local biodiversity. These trees are planted on the grounds of the Education Center and in the community, allowing the project to make a direct contribution to climate protection and the greening of the region.

Pilika, the head of the agricultural project and the greening of the Center, involves all children who show interest and helps them to familiarize themselves with the topic. Through workshops and practical sessions, the participants gain an insight into important topics such as climate change, soil care and sustainable development.

The forest garden project and the tree nursery not only promote awareness of ecological responsibility, but also contribute to the sustainable development of the community.

It is financed by our long-term partner Daniel Schlegel Umweltstiftung.









## The fear of falling into the toilet

(told by Samir / educator)

Keliny, a child from the kindergarten, 3 years old, played with her friends while I sat nearby and made sure that they didn't start arguing.

Suddenly Keliny came to me and said she had to go to the toilet. No problem, I thought, and explained to her: "The toilet is over there, just go."

But Keliny was horrified: "No! I'm so small, I'll fall into the toilet bowl!"

## Sated (told by Suzeth / IT trainer)

When we talked about food and eating, Lidiana, 13 years old, explained with conviction:

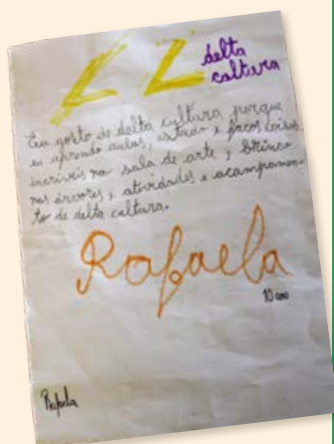
"When I'm full, I stop eating straight away because there are others who have nothing to eat and are hungry."



## Rafaela

(10 years old)

I love Delta because I get to take classes, learn, make incredible things in the art room, climb the trees and participate in activities like summer camp.



## Coloring white

(told by Margarida / kindergarten supervisor)

Wesley is 5 years old. One day, when we were already in the car on our way home, he told me out of the blue that he would be going to Portugal to see his father one day.

"Really? And is that what you want?"

"Yes, but then I have to paint myself white."

I explained to him that there were many people with very different skin colors in



Portugal and that he didn't have to paint himself.

He just had to think for a moment: "No, but I want to paint myself."

## Edmilson on gender-based violence

(told by Carina / educator)

One day, on the way home, a girl gave Edmilson, 14 years old, a slap.

"Don't do that," Edmilson told her, "women aren't made to beat men because men are stronger."

"And are men made to beat women?" I wanted to know from him.

"No. Not even that. Men are made for other things ... anything but beating women."





## IMPRESSIONS OF THE CENTER



















### **Menstruation** (told by Cutchinha / educator)

We have set up a “Friday round” at the Education Center. I meet with the young people and we choose topics to reflect on and discuss.

During a session, Rute, 14 years old, started menstruating. She didn’t notice it at first, but a friend of hers did. The friend came to me and whispered in my ear that I should draw Rute’s attention to it ... she

was too embarrassed to bring it up herself.

I took the opportunity to talk to the young people about menstruation and hygiene. At the end of the meeting, Rute came up to me and thanked me:

“I learn so many things here at the Education Center. Things that I can’t talk about at home or anywhere else because I’m embarrassed or because I’m afraid my mum will scold me.”



















## OUR MAIN PARTNERS IN 2024

All the activities shown above were possible thanks to our strong and dedicated partners. Besides Delta Cultura

in Austria and Germany our main partners in 2024 were (in alphabetical order):

**COMMON  
GOAL**

 **Daniel Schlegel**  
UMWELTSTIFTUNG

**DÄSTER  
SCHILD  
STIFTUNG**

**DOROTHEUM**  
SEIT 1707

**easyname**



Yvonne und Peter  
**Imholz Stiftung**

 **Georg Kraus Stiftung**  
Gemeinnützige Stiftung für  
Entwicklungszusammenarbeit



**GOTTLIEB  
NAEF**



**zeit kind schule**





#### **IMPRINT**

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